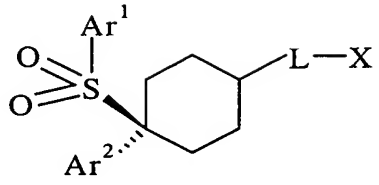
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

wherein

X represents SCN, SR^1, $S(O)R^1$, $(CR^aR^b)_mSO_2R^1$, $SO_2N(R^2)_2$, SO_2NHCOR^1, $SO_2NHN(R^2)_2$, $OSO_2N(R^2)_2$, $OS(O)N(R^2)_2$, OSO_2NHCOR^1, COR^4, $NHCOR^1$, $NHCO_2R^1$, $NHCON(R^2)_2$, $NHSO_2R^1$ or $NHSO_2N(R^2)_2$;

m is 0 or 1

R^a represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^b represents H, C_{1-4}alkyl, CO_2H, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl or C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl; or R^b may combine with R^1 to form a 5- or 6-membered ring;

L represents a bond, =CH- or $-(CHR^a)_n-$; with the proviso that L does not represent a bond when X represents $NHCOR^1$, $NHCO_2R^1$ or $NHSO_2R^1$; and with the proviso that if L represents =CH-, X represents SO_2R^1 or COR^4;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

R^1 represents CF_3 or C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{3-9}cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, any of which may bear up to 2 substituents selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, OR^3, COR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, SO_2R^{3a}, $N(R^5)_2$, and $CON(R^5)_2$,

or R^1 represents aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, C-heterocyclyl or C-heterocyclylC_{1-6}alkyl;

or R^1 may combine with R^b to form a 5- or 6-membered ring;

each R^2 independently represents H, C_{1-6}alkoxy, or C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{3-9}cycloalkyl or C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, any of which may bear up to 2 substituents selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, OR^3, COR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, and $CON(R^5)_2$; or aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, C-heterocyclyl or C-heterocyclylC_{1-6}alkyl;

or two R^2 groups together with a nitrogen atom to which they are mutually attached complete an N-heterocyclyl group;

R^3 represents H, C_{1-4}alkyl, phenyl or heteroaryl;

R^{3a} represents C_{1-4}alkyl, phenyl or heteroaryl;

R^4 represents $(CR^aR^b)SO_2R^1$, pyridine N-oxide, or phenyl or heteroaryl which bear a substituent selected from CO_2H, methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy, COR^3, C-heterocyclyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl and substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{2-6}alkenyloxy wherein the substituent is selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, OR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, $N(R^5)_2$ and $CON(R^5)_2$;

R^5 represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl, or two R^5 groups together with a nitrogen atom to which they are mutually attached complete an azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine, thiomorpholine or thiomorpholine-1,1-dioxide ring;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 independently represent phenyl or heteroaryl, either of which bears 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, CHF_2, OH, OCF_3, CHO, CH=NOH, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6}acyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl and C_{1-4}alkyl which optionally bears a substituent selected from halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, OH and C_{1-4}alkoxy;

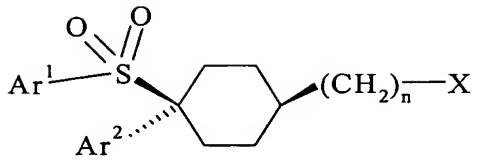
aryl at every occurrence thereof refers to phenyl or heteroaryl which optionally bear up to 3 substituents selected from halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3, COR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, $N(R^5)_2$, $CON(R^5)_2$ and optionally-substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{2-6}alkenyloxy wherein the substituent is selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, phenyl, OR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, $N(R^5)_2$ and $CON(R^5)_2$; and

C-heterocyclyl and N-heterocyclyl at every occurrence thereof refer respectively to a heterocyclic ring system bonded through carbon or nitrogen, said ring system being non-aromatic and comprising up to 10 atoms, at least one of which is O, N or S, and optionally bearing up to 3 substituents selected from oxo, halogen, CN, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3, COR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, OSO_2R^{3a}, $N(R^5)_2$, $CON(R^5)_2$ and optionally-substituted phenyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{2-6}alkenyl or C_{2-6}alkenyloxy wherein the substituent is selected from halogen, CN, CF_3, OR^3, CO_2R^3, $OCOR^{3a}$, $N(R^5)_2$ and $CON(R^5)_2$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X is selected from SR^1, $(CR^aR^b)_mSO_2R^1$, $SO_2N(R^2)_2$, $OSO_2N(R^2)_2$, COR^4, $NHCOR^1$, $NHCO_2R^1$, $NHCON(R^2)_2$, $NHSO_2R^1$ and $NHSO_2N(R^2)_2$.

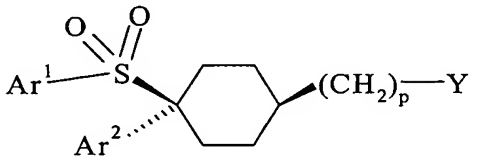
3. A compound according to Claim 1 which is in accordance with formula II:



II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 which is in accordance with formula III:



III

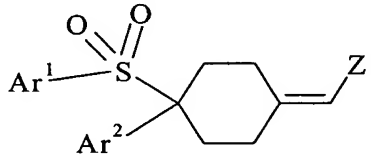
wherein p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

Y is SCN, SR^1, $S(O)R^1$, $(CR^aR^b)_mSO_2R^1$, $SO_2N(R^2)_2$, SO_2NHCOR^1, $SO_2NHN(R^2)_2$, $OSO_2N(R^2)_2$, $OS(O)N(R^2)_2$, OSO_2NHCOR^1, COR^4, $NHCON(R^2)_2$ or $NHSO_2N(R^2)_2$;

and m, R^a, R^b, R^1, R^2, R^4, Ar^1 and Ar^2 are as defined in claim 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 which is in accordance with formula IV:



IV

wherein Z represents SO_2R^1 or COR^4;

and R^1, R^4, Ar^1 and Ar^2 are as defined in Claim 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Ar^1 is 4-chlorophenyl or 4-trifluoromethylphenyl or 6-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pyridyl and Ar^2 is 2,5-difluorophenyl.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. A method of treatment of a subject suffering from or prone to a condition associated with the deposition of β-amyloid which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

9. The method according to Claim 8 wherein said condition is Alzheimer's disease.